THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 13TH JULY.

APROPOS of the new fad about requisitioning the insect world for comestibles *Punch* has the following characteristic hit: "Cook Insects, destroy Beetles, eat Crickets; but there's one sort of Insect every body is perpetually dressing up and dishing for himself and friends, one sort of Insect which we all swallow, willingly, after a little time, for it is an acquired taste, and that Insect is, the Hum-bug of Society."

THE RUSSIANS are trying to play the same game with the Chinese in regard to the delimitation of the Amoor territory as they have played with the British in the case of Afghanistan. But the Chinese Commissioner, profiting by British experience, has decided to fix the boundary alone, if Russia temporises and does not send her ambassador in time to the place. Example is the most potent of instructors, though it teaches without a tongue. But what we regret is that the world has become wiser at the expense of England.

THE "RED PRINCE," Prince Frederick of Germany, is dead. He was the father-in-law of the Duke of Connaught. But his fame rests as one of the best generals of the Prussian army. It was to him that Bazaine surrendered, and before whom Chanzy fled. We sympathise with the Duchess of Connaught in her sorrow. The death of the Prince was rather sudden. He had a dinner party at his house the preceding Saturday when he was apparently in good health, but suddenly fell ill and died the following Monday. The Prince was in his 58th year at the time of his death.

A MANIA for converting insects into human food seems to be raging in England. A little book, "Why not use insects as Food?" has upset the equanimity of the whole London Press. Among the recommendations, come the simpler dishes of "potatoes with wire-worm sauce" and "cauliflowers with caterpillar trimming." Some of the London papers have given us some very sickening recipes such as "a most delicious condiment" of cockroaches commonly known as black beetles which Lady White calls "black bobs." The dearth of delicacies must be great in Great Britain, else why these stretches of the imagination and taste. But we would warn our European friends against taking the "black beetle" paste, as the insect is said to make even cats thin. The Phenyle-wallah ought to go on a crusade against the destruction of cockroaches in that way.

PUNCH HAS a lively cartoon of Mr. Gladstone after his defeat in the Lower House and depicts him as a beaten jockey leading his horse away from a race course, and replying to a question 'why he did not use his whip to a better purpose' that he used it for form's sake and did not mean to win that time. Verily, the reply was like King Reynard's diapprobation of the grapes because of their sourness.

THERE WAS a little incident in the House of Commons on June 19, but it seemed to ruffle greatly some of the Tories. Mr. Gladstone, in announcing his resignation, said, by an obvious slip of the tongue, that the Queen had accepted the resignation of "Lord Salisbury." This lapse of language in the late primier was construed into an unconscious prophecy and some of the prominent members of the Tory party showed a mutinous spirit. But if it be true that "acts cast their shadows before them," we may well say that the prophecy is likely to remain unfulfilled as the rejection of Mr. Gladston's motion to settle the question of Redistribution of Seats Bill by taking up the amendments made by the Upper House clearly shows. The Egyptian and Afghan muddle has estranged the country from him, and even his henchmen follow him in a half-hearted manner.

IT APPEARS FROM J. E. D's letter to the *Times* that the arangements of our Post offices are much better than those of the metropolis of Great Britain. The Indian mail letters reached London on a Sunday afternoon and they were not delivered until the following Tuesday morning. The ways of the great are peculiar, and had the silly correspondent remembered the fact, he would never have showed his churlishness in that way.

IT IS announced that the latest effort of the Indian Government in the direction of economy has been to knock off one pice per rupee from the percentage granted to Indian post-masters on the sale of postal stamps. It is calculated that a sum of Rs. 500 per annum will be gained by this means. The sum will also give an idea of what large sale of postage stamps is conducted by the Post Office.

TUESDAY, 14 TH JULY.

THE *Madras Times* says:—"In order to enable the Registrars of Births and Deaths to record correctly the cause of deaths reported to them, and to ensure the correct return of casualties from various causes, Dr. Davies, the Health Officer of Madras, has adopted a course of delivering weekly lectures to the Registrars on the various diseases." It is a wise move, and our Health Officer ought to follow the example of Madras. The Suburban Municipality lately disavowed the number of deaths returned within its jurisdiction as quite correct as the deaths were not carefully entered by the registrars; hence the greater necessity for such lectures in and about Calcutta.

MR. BRADLAUGH has again emerged from his obscurity and informed the Speaker that he intends to present himself in the House of Commons after the new Government is formed, in order to take his seat. Did not the conservatives who were then in the opposition, vehemently oppose him when he went to the House last time?

"THE PERSIAN papers learn that the Ameer of Afghanistan will shortly undertake a journey through the whole of his country, and will meet at Balk his father-in-law, the Khan of Bokhara, who is friendly with Russia. Russia has commenced negotiations with Persia for a strategical railway to Zericin *via* Rescht, whence Persia intends constructing a line to Teheran." The above is no better than an example of the occasional scares raised by them to frighten silly people out of their wits; none need pay any heed to all such stupid rubbish.

THE Bombay Government has come off with a prompt resolution on the Surat case of Police oppression. While concurring in the judgment of Mr. Lely that death was caused to Hormasji Dosabhai who was sufferring from a fatty degneration of the heart by the shock he received on being hustled out of his bed and carried to the Police Station, the Government condemns the action of the Head Constable as being illegal, or at any rate unnecessarily severe, and yet lets him off with a dismissal. The inadequacy of punishment generally passed upon Police officers has made them bold and reckless, and they do not mind the consequences of their actions. In this instance the death of a human being was caused by the indiscretion of this officer and yet he goes off almost scot-free. A private person would have been greatly *hair-anned and preshanned* if such an offence were committed by him. The Government of Bombay should have dealt more severely with the man if not for anything else, but for checking the arrogance and high-handness of its Police. By the way rumours are afloat that people about the Police station heard the shrieks of poor Dosabhai while under the kind treatment of the Police, and the question is asked, were the shrieks due to fatty degeneration of the heart, or the shock the deceased received on being taken to the Police Station at night or some other occult cause.

"AMERICAN society has been stated by some figures published by the Rev. Dr. Allen, Secretary of the Freedman's Aid Society, proving that, if things go on as at present, in 1985 there will be twice as many blacks as whites in the United States, and that ultimately the white element will be eliminated. Free Negroes, it would appear, double their numbers in 20 years; the white population only in 35 years." The thought of a black Republic of the United States is an uncomfortable one; but it has its consolation. In the multitude of dangers there is often safety, and other statisticians have proved by figures so many dreadful things about the future inhabitants of the States, that the Negro prophecy becomes not so black as it looks. From the rapid multiplication of deaf-mutes, one professor has found that a day must come when all the citizens of the great Republic will be deaf and dumb; another, gauging the insanity tables of New York, fixes the year, almost the week, when the last sane American will disappear; a third has predicted the utter swamping of all races, by the Chinese, and a fourth has foretold that blindness will some day be the normal condition of mature humanity. Seeing, therefore, that all Americans must one day be blind, deaf, dumb, and mad Chinese, their colour could make little difference. Even if a black Chinaman were worse than a yellow one, they would all be too blind to see the difference and too mad to appreciate it.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH JULY.

THE *Statesman* of the 4th instant publishes in *extenso* a judgment of the District Judge of Hooghly in a case in which the Chairman of the Howrah Municipality was defendant-Appellant. The plaintiff, one Nundlal Chatterjee of Seebpore was not even called upon to appear. The circumstances from which the case arose have been fully set forth in Mr. Grant's Judgment, and these disclose a queer state of things at Howrah. One of the Municipal Commissioners, whose name deserves to be gibbeted as a warning, has been judicially convicted of having for his own private ends, put the Municipal Act into operation against a poor rate-payer. The Judge remarks that "all surprise in him is exhausted upon consideration of the proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners, both before and during the suit." A remarkable incident of the case was that when after various postponements, the 4th of September, 1884, was fixed for the hearing, the Municipal Commissioners proceeded that very day to levy, by a distress warrant, from the plaintiff a sum of Rs. 22-5 said to have been due from him for that very act of the Commissioners which had forced the plaintiff to seek the protection of the Civil Court. Regarding this clever move, the Judge observes: "It is impossible to believe this to have been an accidental coincidence. It was an act of impertinent spite on the part of the Municipal Secretary who doubtless believed he was doing a very smart thing, as, indeed, he was doing." The appeal has been rejected under Section 551 of the Code of Civil Procedure, without the plaintiff having been called upon to appear. It is necessary to state that about the time the circumstances happened which led to this case Mr. Buckland was Chairman, and Mr. Donnithorne (now Secretary to the Calcutta Port Trust) was Mr, Buckland's henchman at Howrah. It may not be amiss to add that when the occurrences which drove the plaintiff to court were developing themselves, a sense of general insecurity to property lying within the Municipal limits of Howrah led to the organisation of a local Rate-payer's Association on a representative basis. Under the auspices of their Association, the inhabitants of Seebpore are thinking, we are told, of convening a public meeting for taking steps towards the removal of the offending Municipal Commissioner.

THE old Benares road, called also Ahalya Bye's road, was metalled some years ago from Salkeah to Chanditala in consequence of a member of the Mookerjee family of Janai having advanced the amount without interest. The periodical repairs having commenced, a portion of this thoroughfare from Kona to Chanditalah has been closed to cart traffic to the no small inconvenience of a large number of villages and rural townships. We are asked to bring the matter to the notice of the District Road Cess Committee. The total closing up of a public thoroughfare even for the purpose of necessary repairs, is exceedingly ill judged.

WE ARE glad to learn that a poor clerk on a small pay, named Joykrishna Banerjee, who had been dismissed from the office of the Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, in clear defiance of the standing orders on the subject, has, at the suggestion of the Government of India, been restored, though the Superintendent has been pleased to intimate that the clerk is to have a further *trial* of three months.

SPAIN, incited by the aggrandisation policy of other continental powers, has thought fit to lay a claim to Yap, the principal island of the Caroline Group. Although she claims the possession of the islands since their discovery, she has never yet

taken formal possession of them, nor established any form of Government there. The English, American and German traders carry on trade with them, and the difficulty in the way of Spain is how to deal with these traders.

AMONG the many suggestions made from time to time for the expansion of education in India, the suggestion of Madras that to the training given by the schools should be added "commercial education" seems to us a happy one. The plan is that, besides the ordinary subjects of study such as English, History, Geography, Arithmetic, the Higher Schools should teach Book-keeping and other commercial accounts viz. Invoices Drafts, Bills, Accounts Current, Bills of Sale, and Bills of Lading; and that instructions in commercial correspondence and legible and good caligraply should also form a part of their curriculum. It is also suggested that the higher students should be taught the outlines of commercial law. The time that will be required by the students to get through the course is estimated at 3 years at the end of which they will be granted a diploma to enable them to get hold of an appointment in the commercial world. The suggestion seems to us to be a useful one. By imparting the sort of education indicated above it would be throwing open another door to useful work. The difficulty is how to work out the plan without forcing people to learn what they do not want. General and special education cannot be lumped into one without doing great harm.

"THE scientific gentlemen," says *Truth*, "who wish to establish the quarantine system at Suez, seem to be either ignorant, or strangely careless, of the first principles of humanity. Becuase sanitation is little understood and less practised in Europe, cholera must, at all hazards, be kept out of European waters. So far well and good; but when these persons recommend the detention at Suez of all ships infected with cholera, their recommendation is not only foolish, but abominably immoral. Powerful nations have no more right to localise cholera at Suez, where the natives are weak, than rinderpest in Iceland." Would Englishmen have said this if their interests were not concerned? How many pains and penalties they inflict on us in the name of sanitation?

THURSDAY, 16TH JULY.

THE *Indu Prokash*, of Bombay, says:—"Sir Rivers Thompsom has once at least been checkmated. Although the internal management of the Presidency Jail had been made the occasion of indignant comments in the papers and an official enquiry, instituted by Sir Rivers himself, had shown that the management was by no means satisfactory, he refused to transfer Mr. Beadon, the Superintendent of the Jail. The Government of India asked him to transfer Mr. Beadon, but even then he would not. And now the Secretary of State has, we learn, insisted upon Mr. Beadon being transferred. This is as it should be." We can hardly subscribe to this. The law is that the private interest of a single Englishman is of greater moment than the weal of a million of natives.

THE *Deccan Times* has received the following item of news from Hyderabad:—"Everything topsy turvy here. Nizam and Minister at loggerheads: do not know what the end will be. We are hoping against hope that all will come right between them. *Hindustani* intrigue is at the bottom of it all. This foreign element is ruining the country, and ought to to be deported wholesale." This is unquestionably due to intrigue whether there be "Hindustani intrigue" or not.

REUTER says that the *Daily News* publishes a paragraph stating that the British Government is in favour of establishing a British Cantonment at Kandahar, or in the immediate neighbourhood of that place, with the consent of the Amir. At Simla the announcement was a news and took many by surprise. But regard being had to the policy of the Ministry, it is difficult to disbelieve the statement. The replies given in the House of Commons in regard to this subject were not over positive.

THE BHUTAN AFFAIR has assumed a worse aspect than before. Arrangements were made for settling the quarrel amicably but on the 29th May last while the contending parties had met a treacherous attack was made by a soldier on one of the envoys who died of the effects of the injuries received. This upset the whole arrangement. The Deb Rajah is now in Tassisudan besieged by his enemies. The Dhurma Rajah is reported to be still neutral.

IN HIS letter lately received at Dongola, the Mahdi earnestly exhorts the English to become Mussulmans, —to be warned by the disasters that have befallen Hicks Pasha, Gordon Pasha, and others, and which he says will also be the fate of the English generally, if they refuse to accept the true faith.

"THE Madras High Court is not a respecter of persons, and administers justice without fear or favor. Before the rising of the Court for the annual vacation, Mr. E. B. Powell, the acting Government Pleader, preferred an appeal against a judgment of acquittal by the Assistant Magistrate and Collector of Saidapet, Mr. Murdock, in a case of assault, in which the defendants were Mr. Alfred Berry, (a Commercial Broker), Mr. John Kyd, (of the National Bank), Mr. J. Blackhall, (of the Agra Bank), and Rungasawmy, (a coachman). The defendants were charged with having assaulted a toll-gate keeper, when he demanded the toll from them. The Magistrate, in sentencing Mr. Berry to pay a fine of one anna for the assault, acquitted the other defendants. Their Lordships Hutchins and Brandt J. J., after hearing Mr. Powell, the Government Pleader, and Mr. Spring Branson, who appeared for the respondents, reserved judgment. Their Lordships have since enhanced the fine inflicted on Mr. Berry from one anna to 20 Rupees, and acquitted the other defendants." Such decisions serve to attach the people more to their rulers than twenty others on intricate points of the civil law.

"'AN INDIAN NATIVE Village' is to be established in Regent Street next November, for the purpose of affording to the English public some idea of the manners, customs, industries, and amusements of the natives of India. Sir George Birdwood, C. S. I., of the India Office, has accepted the office of director of the proposed exhibition. It will be modelled upon that of the Japanese village, which is likely to be revived."

FRIDAY, 17TH JULY.

THE CEYLON PATRIOT says that drinking is becoming fashionable in Ceylon too, especially with the Tamils. These in their ideas of English life, go largely in for *taking horns and getting tight*. The apparition of drink is now so freely visiting the land that every sick patient, be he a Hindoo or Christian, thinks that he cannot get well unless *Port* or *Brandy* is given him; and the Doctors to meet the idiosyncracies of the people are now freely prescribing "Invalid Port" for all sorts of patients. It is a matter of regret that the Cingalese have taken such a strong fancy to drinking. It is a legacy which we are on a fair way of inheriting from our rulers, and the more we try to keep the fiend out of doors the better for us and the country.

HERE ARE some stinging doggerels worth preservation!:—

Ten little Babus, sitting down to dine;
One went to *e-school*, and then there were nine.
Nine little Babus, pillars of *e-state*;
One went to Kaiij, and then there were eight.
Eight little Babus, climbing up to heaven;
One became *Deputy*, and then there were seven.
Seven little Babus (not know any tricks),
One became *Magistrate*, and then there were six.
Six little Babus now began to thrive;
One became *District-Judge*, and then there were five.
Five little Babus (don't the *Mirror* wish 'twere more?);
One became *Commissioner* and then there were four.
Four Little Babus climbing up the tree;
One became *L. G.*, and then there were three.
Three little Babus (not know what to do);
One became G. G., and then there were three.
Two little Babus (the list is nearly done)
One became *Essekitry*, and then there was one.
One little Babu (the goal at last is won),
Became proud Eng's. Premr. and then there were none.

SOME PEOPLE are in the habit of damping adhesive stamps and envelopes with their tongue. The Lancet condemns the practice thus:—"We have seen bad consequences ensue from the habit, which is a very common one. Those who frequently thus moisten the gum on adhesive stamps and envelopes their faces suffer from local irritation, sore tongues, and the like, while every now and again we hear of special propagation of disease by the habit. A curious illustration of the way in which disease may be communicated was recently brought under notice. An envelope received from a person who habitually took large quantities of morphia hypodermically was reclosed by the person who opened it by licking the adhesive surface with the result of making him violently sick. The mere touch of the tongue of the taker of morphia had rendered the gum intensely nauseous. If this could happen, obviously there must be grave peril of the transmission of disease by such means." We have heard of the same objection urged against the Mahommadan custom of making use of the same *hukka* without the intervention of a fresh leaf pipe. With the germ theory of disease so rampant just now, the subject is worthy of note. At any rate the habit is a dirty one and should be dropped.

"SEBASTOPOL is being re-fortified with great despatch by the Russian Government. At all points where the approaches to the harbour are commanded, huge earthworks are being erected, and also at other points along the coast. These are being mounted with very heavy guns of the latest type. The men employed on the works consist of Sappers and gunners, with soldiers of the line under scientific directions. What is very unusual in Russia is, that the work goes on even on the strictest of holidays, so urgent and important is it considered."

A COLLEGE for females is about to be established at Goa. The Archbishop has interested himself in the project. The College will be under the management of two trained school mistresses imported from Europe.

THE economy practised by the North-West Provinces Government is expected to result in a saving of 20½ lakhs of rupees on the current year's estimates. The saving would indeed be very large, but we wish to know how it is to be effected. We trust, not too many menial servants and ill-paid clerks have been turned adrift on the country.

A HORRIBLE and stange story of a murder is reported by the *Western Star* of Cochin. The scene of the occurrence is laid at Anjenand, a small Tamil speaking district composed of a few villages. Some three months past a report was made by an official of the Mysore Government to the District Magistrate that a serious murder had taken place in the district, whereupon the Magistrate directed the Police Station Officer and four constables to proceed to the spot and investigate the case. The murderers were the dread of the place. The police, however, managed to seize three of the murderers, father, son and son-in-law. The son-in-law effected his escape by jumping over a precipice. The other two were brought to the head quarters where they made a curious confession. They said that their culitivation had proved a failure on account of a failure of water in the irrigation canal; and if they could bury 9 human heads in the reservoir, the God Meenachee would be propitiated and plenty would return. Soon after they heard that 3 persons, of an alien race, had encamped on the banks of a stream close by, for fishing purposes. They immediately armed themselves with sharp choppers and went to the place where they found an old woman engaged in fishing. The father went up to her, laid hold of her by the hair of her head and with one stroke of the chopper severed the head from the trunk. Seeing this an old man, apparently the husband of the deceased woman, and a young girl ran away; the son and the son-in-law pursued them and they were soon overtaken and killed. They then brought the heads to the god, offered their gunuflexions and prayers to him, and then threw the heads into the reservoir. They said they never knew them before, and had committed the murders simply to propitiate the God. The case is yet under investigation.

SATURDAY, 18TH JULY.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* has it that the offer of a peerage to Mr. Gladstone is construed to mean that the Queen considers that the time has come when the country will be benefitted by the retirement of Mr. Gladstone. But he refused to take the hint. The Radicals deride the offer, as prompted by evil intention. We honor the grand old man and refuse to believe that Her Majesty was actuated by any other motive than that of doing honor to her long trusted minister.

NEWS OF a case of cannibalism has reached the Lahore paper by the last mail. A Christian Native Prince on the west coast of Africa, killed nine captives and gave the bodies, to his followers to cook and eat. The Prince is said to have partaken of the banquet. The news seems to us to have been cooked by the mail writer for want of a more handy material.

ADVERTING to Dr. Cornish's proposal to hand over a number of Indian prisoners upon whom capital sentence has been passed, to an international commission of cholera experts to try experiments with, the *Pioneer* justly remarks:—"Of the alternative proposals of Dr. Cornish it is difficult to approve. He recommends that the 300 or 400 persons sentenced annually to death in India and her dependencies should be handed over, with their own consent, to an international commission of cholera experts to try experiments with. He might extend his proposals and advise that murderers be sentenced to a certain number of experimental cobra-bites, burglars to scorpions, pick-pockets to centipedes, and boys who throw stones at trains to six strokes with a wasp's sting—in the cause of Experimental Science. But society would scarcely care about being revenged on its criminals in that way." It is worthy of note that the doctor was afraid to name any other prisoners to be so immolated at the alter of science than the natives of India. While other countries are trying to do away with the offensive practice of taking life for life, our humane Anglo-Indian friends are

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recommending torture for the Indian culprits, for the experiment will be no less than torturing an unfortunate man to death under a specious plea. This is really very kind of them.

SUNDAY last Baly became the scene of a serious affray between the local police and the people. A constable is reported to have behaved shabbily towards several gentlemen at the bathing ghat. Baboo Kristodhone Banerjee B.L., remonstrated with the man, telling that by his act he was violating a municipal bye-law. The constable gave him an insulting answer; whereupon Baboo Kristodhone demanded his name and number, and these being refused he caught hold of the man's hand to take him to the Thannah. The constable tried to effect his escape by giving Babu Kristodhone a push, but he was secured by other men who, it is reported, gave him a beating. Hearing the cry a small crowd assembled, and anon came the Sub-Inspector to the rescue of his *protege*. Hearing the one-sided tale of the constable he directed him to bring down all the available men of the Thannah, and in came twenty constables armed with *lattees*, and began to belabour the crowd indiscriminately with their clubs. On this a goodly number of the inhabitants rushed upon their adversaries and a serious affray ensued. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, at once drove to the Magistrate of Howrah to inform him of the incident and the Magistrate directed Mr. Samuel with a *posse* of constables to go to the spot and quiet the disturbance, and to make an investigation. Mr. Samuel with some difficulty dispersed the crowd, which numbered nearly 5000, and then began making an investigation. As the case is *Sub-judice* we refrain from making any remarks on the merits of the case now.

AN OLD CIVIL SERVANT, in writing to the *Times*, asks if the change of Ministers will have any effect on the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Bill. He thinks it possible that the principles involved in the new law may not commend themselves to Lord Randolph Churchill, while it is commonly reported that Lord Dufferin has little sympathy with the measure.

IT IS REPORTED that much irritation is being felt at *Khorasan* on account of Russian aggression; and Bombay is in tremor at the news of her recent advances.

THE MARVELLOUSLY rich Princess de Sagan, it is said, recently gave a novel fete and ball in Paris. She required her guests to come attired as animals and she was herself arrayed in the garb of a peacock received from her menagerie:—"We are told how Mme. de Lambert, *nee* Rothschild, came as a tigress, and the Countess de Gauville as a white hen; how the Marquise d'Hervey frollicked as a pink ibis, and Mme. Schneider glided noiselessly among the throng as a boa constrictor, while twelve young bloods in leash represented fox hounds on 'all four.s' It appears that the people of the quintessence of gaiety have become tired of the boredom of its own humanity, and want to find relief for a few hours by appearing like animals in guise and deportment. The spirit of religion seems to be diminishing in France, just as it did before the old Revolution when the whole 'nation of atheists' enacted bloody scenes of '89-93.

THE following rather neat epitaph has been written on the late Government:

> Here lies a Government. For years it stood
> Practising evil, inculcating good;
> With what result in one line may be shown—
> It took its country's life, and then its own!

THE TOTAL number of deaths registered during the week was 201 against 195 and 150 in the two preceding weeks and 15 in excess of the corresponding week last year. There were 22 deaths from Cholera against 16 and 14 in the 2 preceding weeks, the quinquennial mean being 10. There were no deaths from small-pox from which it would appear that this disease, which has lingered so long in the town, is now about to vanish for some time. The increase of mortality as compared with the 2 preceding weeks and with quinquennial mean was due to a slight increase under the heads of cholera, fevers and "other causes." The number of deaths from bowel complaints was below the average. The general mortality during the week was at the rate of 24·2 per 1000 per annum.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, July 12.—Mr. Atkinson, Conservative candidate, has been elected member for North Lincolnshire, replacing Mr. Rowland Winn, who has been raised to the peerage; the state of the poll was 4,000 votes for Mr. Atkinson and 28,000 for Sir Henry Thomson, the Liberal candidate.

14.—The Secretary of State for India, replying to a question in the Commons, said that in regard to the statement which had appeared, that the British Government was in favour of establishing a British Cantonment at Candahar it must be remembered that Afghanistan is an independent State. Mr. Bourke, replying to a question in the Commons, said that the English case on the Afghan Boundary dispute, that was to be submitted to arbitration, was still under consideration. A debate took place in the Commons relating to the Army Estimates, and after some discussion, the House approved of a supplementary credit to repay the cost of the additional men who had been taken on. The Secretary of State for War is urging the necessity of the step, pending a complete understanding with Russia. The British Government, he said, had no intention of advancing beyond the demands of their predecessors, in the negotiations with that country. Lord Wolseley has arrived in London.

15.—Lord Randolph Churchill, replying to a question in the House of Commons last night, said that there had been no negotiations with the Amir regarding a British cantonment at Candahar, though under the pledge England had made to the Amir, it might be necessary for us to aid in the defence of Candahar. Mr Bourke, replying to a question, said that England and China had come to an agreement respecting the importation of opium, but that it had not yet been ratified. The *Standard* publishes a telegram, stating that the Boundary Commission has started suddenly for Herat.

Cairo, July 11.—General Brackenbury telegraphs that news has reached him from two native sources that the Mahdi is dead. Latest advices state that Russian reinforcements continue to advance on Sarakhs.

St. Petersburg, July 17.—The *Journal de St. Petersbourg* publishes an article regarding the late movement of Russian troops to Zulfikar. It attaches no importance to the same, and adds that the Russian Government will not do anything tending to compromise pending negotiations.

18.—IN the House of Commons last night, Mr. Parnell introduced a resolution, condemning Lord Spencer, and demanding an enquiry into the late Maamtrasna murders. The Government announced to the House that Earl Carnarvon promised to make enquiry into the statements made on behalf of the prisoners, and after some discussion, the House negatived Mr. Parnell's resolution without a division. Mr. Ferdinand Rothschild, Liberal candidate, has been elected member for Aylesbury.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1885.

THE CONSERVATIVE AFGHAN POLICY.

Now that the Conservatives have returned to power the public is naturally curious to know what policy they will pursue with regard to the important question of Indian frontier defence. It is stated that Lord Salisbury will, so far as the circumstances of the case will permit, act upon the principle of "continuity of policy." There is every likelihood that as regards the Russian imbroglio, the arrangement made by the Gladstone Cabinet will be carried out in the main, unless Russia should be so ill-advised as to make any new demands. The wily Muscovite, however, knows well that Lord Salisbury and Lord Randolph Churchill are not peace-at-any price men and that they will not turn their left cheek when the right has been smitten. They have seen with deep regret that from the time when the delimitation of the Afghan frontier was agreed upon, Russia has, step by step, advanced, either actually possessing herself of territory, or inflicting upon the Afghans and upon England insults and slights, apparently intended to have a political effect on the Asiatic mind. There is every reason to fear that a refusal to treat upon the basis of Mr. Gladstone's arrangement will necessarily involve a diplomatic rupture with Russia; and a diplomatic rupture is but little removed from war. Had the matter originated in Lord Salisbury's time he would, doubtless, have treated it differently; but in the present state of affairs, we may take it for granted that the negotiations set on foot by Lord Granville will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

We think it most desirable that there should be a continuity of policy upon our North-West Frontier. But we fear that the Conservatives may adopt another to carry out the policy of the "forward" school. The current number of the *National Review* contains an article by Mr. Stanhope, M. P., entitled "M. Lessar's Triumph—and After?" Mr. Stanhope, the reader knows, was formerly Under-Secretary of State for India, and has now become a member of Lord Salisbury's Cabinet. The views expressed by him, therefore, possess a peculiar interest and value. That portion of the article which deals with M. Lessar's diplomatic triumph in London we may pass over. The part of Mr. Stanhope's article with which we are concerned is that which discusses the question of Indian frontier defence. He begins by pointing out that the Liberals have accepted the principles of frontier defence, which of late years have been especially associated with the name of Lord Beaconsfield. He writes:—"Four or five years ago we abandoned the Sibi-Quetta Railway, and we ordered the evacuation of all positions beyond our frontier in order to reverse his policy. We are now reconstructing the railway; we have taken over, with the approval of all parties, the Government of Quetta and the administration of Peshin district. And the time is not far distant, in my opinion, when we shall go back to Kandahar. Nothing was more melancholy, during the debates upon the withdrawal from that place, than to hear so many speakers declare that, although we should have to return there, we ought at that time to return to our old frontier. No political short-sightedness was ever more deplorable." We regret to find that even Mr. Stanhope, who has always been conspicuous among English politicians for his good sense and for his intelligent interest in Indian affairs, should have fallen into the mistake of supposing that the accession of a Liberal Government to power in the spring of 1880 resulted in a complete reversal of the Afghan policy which had been pursued by their predecessors. We should like to ask Mr. Stanhope, did the annexation or permanent occupation of Kandahar form any part of the Conservative programme? Let Sir Lepel Griffin who conducted the negotiations with the present Amir of Cabul in 1880, under the orders of both the Conservative and Liberal Viceroys, answer this question. He says:—"It is generally and popularly believed that the Liberals reversed the Conservative policy in withdrawing from Kandahar, and the meaning undoubtedly is that the Conservative programme included a permanent occupation of Kandahar by a British garrison which is not to be distinguished from the annexation of that province to India. Permanent military occupation is annexation with all its difficulties and with none of its advantages. But while the Conservative Government were in power, I was directed by the Viceroy to declare at Cabul, and repeatedly did so declare, that the British Government had no intention of occupying permanently or annexing Kandahar, and our withdrawal was in direct accordance with the reiterated and solemn professions, which I had been instructed to make, and the assurances of the Government of India to the chiefs and people of Cabul. We could not have remained without a breach of public faith. The Liberal Viceroy was quite prepared to support the man who had been proclaimed the hereditary ruler of Kandahar, and in fact did support him until he refused to hold the office any longer." The testimony of Sir Lepel Griffin on this point must be accepted as conclusive. It is true that the Conservative Government, after Sir Frederick Robert's victory over Ayub Khan, was anxious to retain Kandahar; but that was an after-thought. Lord Beaconsfield naturally wished to show something in return for the large sums of money and enormous number of lives wasted in the Afghan war and he hit upon the retention of Kandahar. It is fortunate for India that the return of Liberals to power prevented this idea from being carried out. The permanent occupation of Kandahar would have added at least a couple of crores of rupees to the military expenditure of India, and it would have ultimately involved the annexation of the whole of Afghanistan—a measure which would have simply proved ruinous to our finances.

Mr. Stanhope is of opinion that the suggestions made by the late Sir Bartle Frere in his Memorandum, written in 1874, should guide our frontier policy. He states that much of Sir Bartle's programme has been already realized. He says:—"Our forces are not only at Quetta, but they are, with the approval of the greatest military authorities, in advance of that position. Five millions, at least, are being spent upon our frontier communications, and we were informed only a few days ago of the intended construction of a railway through the Bolan Pass. English officers are at Herat with the consent of the Amir. Political memories are proverbially very short. But nothing was more remarkable, to any one who has clearly in his mind the denunciations of 1879, than when, three weeks ago, Mr. Labouchere asked in the House of Commons for the establishment of a British representative at Herat. Is it so long ago that a similar proposal by Lord Salisbury—strictly limited to Herat and possibly Kandahar, and dependent on the consent

of the Amir—was resisted by the then Governor-General of India, and was the subject of excited condemnation upon the hustings? But it is absolutely certain now that Herat is not the only point where the watchful of British agents is required. The northern frontier of Afghanistan, the importance of which almost escapes notice in the midst of the more pressing questions arising out of the ill-defined condition of the North-Western Boundary, requires careful attention. And it is to be hoped that one of the results of the recent conferences at Rawal Pindi will have been to enable English officers to proceed, with the consent of the Amir, not only to Herat, but also to other places on his frontier." The results of the Rawal Pindi conference must have sadly disappointed Mr. Stanhope and those who think with him that British agents should be placed at Herat and other places on the Afghan frontier to watch the movements of the Russians. The truth is that long before the conference Abdur Rahman had made up his mind not to receive English officers permanently in his dominions. Mr. Stanhope makes much of the presence of two or three English Engineers at Herat at the time he wrote his article under notice. He would have the British public believe that the Amir has consented to the establishment of an English representative at Herat. But what are the facts of the case? It is no secret that in the middle of March last the English Government ordered Colonel Stewart, Major Holdich and Captain Gore to proceed to Herat, and arrange about putting the defences of that place on a sound and satisfactory footing. These officers actually journeyed a short distance into the valley and found that all admission to the city was practically closed to them, as was the case at the time the Boundary Commission passed near Herat. It is true that after this English Engineers were permitted to inspect the defences of Herat and suggest plans for improving them. But we must not forget that the stay of these officers in the city was limited to 2 or 3 days. The construction of the works which they designed has not been entrusted to them. The *Pioneer*, writing on this subject the other day, urged on the Government of India the desirability of asking the Amir to allow English Engineers to look after the carrying out of the scheme which they have framed for improving the defences of Herat. But it appears that Abdur Rahman has not yet given his consent to this proposal, and we very much doubt whether he will do so. The Amir distinctly made it known at Rawal Pindi that he would not have British officers or men to aid him in the defence of his country until he had himself asked for them. The simple truth is—and the sooner it is recognised the better—that no ruler of Afghanistan will ever consent to the establishment of English agents or officers in his dominions, in any capacity whatever. Lord Northbrook knew this very well, and it is for this reason, that he resisted Lord Salisbury's proposal to ask the Amir to receive British representatives at Herat and Kandahar. Lord Lytton was sent out to give effect to this policy, and what happened we all know very well. It is as clear as the most elementary proposition that no ruler of Afghanistan can be expected to accept the position of a protected Indian prince. At the Peshwar conference Shere Ali's Minister implored Lord Lytton to give up the idea of forcing British representives upon the Amir, but the Conservative Viceroy would not listen to the voice of reason. Our rulers have no idea of the suspicion and mistrust with which Oriental people look upon them, and surely the latter cannot be blamed for entertaining such feelings. Sir Roderick Murchison, President of the Royal Geographical Society, in the course of one of his annual addreses, observed:—"We must not complain that ours reputation takes its complexion from our con quest and progress in Asia, the history of which in broad outlines is known all over Asia. How we began by asking for privilege to trade and ended by annexing province after province after disastrous wars is no secret. Whatever explanations we may have to offer as to the cause of this inevitable advance from trading factories to empire, we can scarcely expect Eastern Sovereigns or people to attach much credit to them. We must be content to trade and negotiate *weighted with the heavy burden of suspicion and distrust.*" These thoughtful observations we commend to every Englishman who expresses surprise at the refusal of the Amir of Afghanistan to receive British officers in his dominions. It is the firm conviction of every Oriental that the English never began as friends without ending as enemies by seizing the country which they entered with the most amicable professions. Do what the English Government may, it cannot remove this conviction from the Afghan mind. If the conservatives should again endeavour to place British officers or agents in Afghanistan, the consequence will be that the Amir will throw himself entirely upon the protection of Russia.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

A RECENT number of the *Gazette of India* contains the annual report on the operations of the Indian Postal Department for the official year 1883-84, and a Resolution thereon which—as is usual with Resolutions now-a-days—commences with a grumble because the report was submitted later than it ought to have been. It is refreshing to find that there is not much to grumble about beyond this. If all the manifold departments by which the affairs of the Indian people are administered were worked as carefully and as considerately as our postal bureau is, there would be little enough matter left for tax-payers to grumble about at any time.

The number of post offices open at the close of the year under review was 5879, as against 5310 at the beginning. The increase was mainly due, we are told, to extensions of the village post office system, under which school-masters or other non-postal officials are utilized as post-masters. We are glad to hear that still further extension is being arranged for. Bringing out-of-the way mufassal villages into the Postal scheme means practically bringing them nearer to the advanced standards of town culture and opinion; nearer to participation in the spirit of the times we live in. It is a development to be welcomed on this account as much as for the greater opportunities it affords the absent for transmission of domestic news and kindly messages, and money remittances with the assurance that they will reach their destination. We note that the total length of the postal lines of communication in India rose from 61,204 miles in 1882-83 to 63,536 miles during the year under review. The total number of articles sent by post exclusive of money orders, was more than two hundred millions; an increase of sixteen and a quarter millions, or 8·83 per cent. over previous totals. This is attributable mainly to the increasing popularity of postcards, of which over thirty-eight millions circulated. There was an increase in the number of newspapers carried, and a decrease in that of unpaid letters. With both of which results the Government Resolution expresses satisfaction whilst no concern is felt apparently about a slight decrease in the number of inland parcels—a decrease deemed in the Secretariat more than compensated for by an increase in the number of foreign parcels sent by post, that branch of the department's business having recovered from the temporary check occasioned by the disturbances in Egypt in 1882-83. In this connection we note that the disposal of articles received for delivery was satisfactory. Of the total 203,340,195, including money orders, 197,362,251 or more than 97 per cent., were delivered to the addressees by the ordinary Post Offices without delay, while 3,561,792 were delivered after being returned undelivered; the remainder being sent to the Dead Letter Offices. Of these again 16·13 per cent. were at last made over to the addressees, 56·41 per cent. were returned to the senders, and 27·46 per cent. were 'deposited as dead.'

Let us now glance at some figures and statements in connection with receipts and expenditure. There was a very large increase in 'value payable' transactions which are said to be increasing in popularity steadily and very rapidly. The gross receipts from the sale of ordinary postage stamps are set down at Rs. 49,87,927 (half anna embossed envelopes continuing to gain in popular favour, and to bring in increase of revenue); deducting service stamps—counters that is to say, only serviceable for the adjustment of accounts,—the amount of postage realized in cash rose from Rs. 33,77,402 to Rs. 35,24,817. On the whole of the operations conducted by the Postal Department the Director General reckons a net revenue of Rs. 7,19,510 as against Rs. 5,57,709 in 1882-83 and a net expenditure of Rs. 5,39,556 as against Rs. 7,51,338 in 1882-83. The Government of India thinks that these figures cannot be accepted as exact. We are told that "the financial position of the Post Office in India is that it is not quite self-supporting. There is a net expenditure of about 22 lakhs, as shown in the Finance and Revenue, accounts. This net expenditure is justified by the general conveniences afforded to the public and to Government by the Post Office, and it is moreover being gradually, diminished in amount." Accepting as a statement of fact the Government's assurance that the public convenience justifies such expenditure as has been incurred, we need not perhaps concern ourselves further about what seems to be only an amicable difference of opinion as to the most business-like way of compiling accounts. Suffice it to say that in ordinary business-concerns in which Government has no interest one accountant will follow one plan and another accountant another in making out a balance sheet. If they are agreed as to essentials their pet idiosyncracies can really matter very little either one way or another.

We are told that the number of complaints made by the public of irregularities in the working of the Department was, during the year under review, 5,732, nearly the same as in 1882-83, and that "of these, 2,320 proved groundless, 1,888 were well founded, and in the remainder the result of the inquiries was either indefinite, or is left unstated in the Report. The complaints relating to registered letters, parcels, money orders, and postal notes were 444 in number, in 127 of which the postal establishments were in fault." We deem this paragraph far from satisfactory; the one unsatisfactory exhibit of the working of the Indian Postal Department which we are bound to notice is that Postal establishments were admittedly "in fault" too often, and although 'groundless' is doubtless a convenient word for a Post Office official who is Judge and Jury in his own case so to speak, yet its more or less careless use is often the reverse of convenient to a poor man making complaint about departmental shortcomings, negligence, or high handed insouciance. In the course of 1883-84 criminal convictions were obtained against 161 Post Office servants, and 65 others were departmentally punished. Twenty-four mail robberies occurred; fifteen of which took place in British and nine in foreign territory.

The outward mails by the P. and O. Steamers arrived in Bombay before contract time on 24 occasions, and were behind time on 28.

THE CALCUTTA POLICE

IT is not encouraging to find from the last Police Report of Calcutta that in spite of police watching and warding and vigilance, the number of police cases dealt with in one way and another shows an increase of 9893, as compared with the figures for the previous year. This increase, however, was occasioned almost entirely by a glut of minor offences, *viz.*, street offences 1744 cases; breach of conservancy laws (chiefly municipal prosecutions) 3479 cases: miscellaneous offences 502 cases. In the Suburbs again, there was a decrease of 2487 cases; the nuisance of indiscriminate municipal prosecutions having been abated. In the town, there was a decrease in the number of serious offences against the person, chiefly in cases of Kidnapping, hurt by dangerous weapon, and criminal force to public servants. The percentage of convictions in cognizable offences shows a slightly better proportion of convictions when compared with the figures of the previous year, and points to increased carefulness and discrimination on the part of Police officers. It is claimed that both in Town and Suburbs there was satisfactory increase in the percentage of

stolen property recovered. All these data are suggestive of praiseworthy improvements in the efficiency of our police force. It is pleasant to read of a decrease in the number of false cases instituted. For honest men a welcome addition to a sense of security from evils inherent in the shadow of the police, and that cannot be too well assured. This derease is, we see, attributed to the deterrent effect of a steady prosecution of all persons who brought charges which they knew to be false. In 106 of these cases fines were inflicted, compensation being awarded in 99 cases to the aggrieved parties. A constable was sentenced to six months imprisonment for bringing a false charge of assault and theft against a hawker of goods. In the Suburbs 22 such prosecutions were instituted.In 5 cases the complainants were sentenced to imprisonment; in 13 cases fines were inflicted, compensation being awarded in only one case, and in 3 cases the complainants were discharged. In 15 cases, as no person was named in the false complaints, further proceedings could not be taken. In 31 false cases the complainants had no intention to cause injury. The new departure that has been made in an attempt to suppress the mischief, attendant upon unfounded complaints and false charges against innocent persons, is a move in the right direction. But at the same time, we hope, that great care, the most watchful discrimination is, and will be, used, before permitting the institution of such cases. Or it may be that the last evil will be worse than the first. The police have orders, we note, to refrain from investigations into complaints brought before them only when a complaint is petty and the complainant does not desire investigation. In another para. in connection with arrests of persons suspected of being in possession of stolen property,we are told, that "the necessity of checking the zeal of the lower ranks of the force is never lost sight of." We are glad to hear that there is this zeal. It is a source of satisfaction to know that the authorities are alive to the obligation they lie under to keep it in serviceable subjection is the rights and liberties of subjects.

The total number of Penal Code convictions rose from 11,710 in 1883 to 12,139 in 1884. Convictions of Hindus during the year bore nearly the same ratio to population as convictions during the previous year. For causing grievous hurt 18 Mahomedans were convicted against 11 Hindus. Of 38 house-breakers 19 were Mahomedans and 19 Hindus. 201 Mahomedans were convicted of theft, against 130 Hindus. Under all heads of crime the percentage of convictions of Hindus in proportion to population fell from ·58 to ·56, and that of Mahomedans and Christians rose from 1·00 to 1·02 and from ·34 to ·37. Perhaps it is for the sake of uniformity that the Report cites 6 cases of murder as having occurred in the town in 1884, and then forthwith sets down number six in the list as "most probably a case of suicide." Here is what is written about it. "Two up-countrymen had a quarrel about their mistress, and in January one of the men was found in the woman's room with his throat cut. There was no direct evidence, but, by signs before he died, the wounded man charged his rival with having committed the assault. Medical opinion was divided: the Police Surgeon was of opinion that the wounds were self-inflicted; a second surgeon thought the case was of murder; a third surgeon was unable to make up his mind.In his remarks discharging the accused,the Magistrate wrote:—The fact that no mark of struggle was observed by the police in the room where the wound was inflicted showed that it was a self-inflicted one." The first enquiry Fench people make with reference to a murderr is usually—"Who is she?" In one way and another a woman was at the bottom of every one of these six (or five) Calcutta murder cases. Number 3 is described as "a very remarkable case of murder by a woman.—woman who "possessed a remarkable physique, and was quite capable of committing a murder single-handed." Some of our readers may be reminded of a character in Dickens's "Great Expectations," the house-keeper, whose muscular fore-arm Mr. Jaggers took a cruel delight in exhibiting to visitors. Four cases of culpable homicide are reported; in two of which the culprit got off very cheaply, it seems to us. One of them, Albert James Mathews, a Eurasian vagabond who threatened to assault his mother, and on being remonstrated with by a Chinaman stabbed that unfortunate peace-maker with a dagger; death resulting within half an hour. The other John Gale, a West Indian who, having been turned out by his mistress, produced a loaded revolver, and wantonly, with murderous intent, fired several shots at the woman and her neighbours, one of whom was wounded. He only got 2 years rigorous imprisonment as a punishment; Mathews 7 years. Strange to say in the Suburbs as in the Town there were six cases of murder, two of them of women killed by their paramours. There were three "attempts at murder." Gokool Koormee and Sila Dome tried to kill their child-wives, and a lunatic, whose name is not given, made a savage attack on his mistress with an axe, straight way reporting the occurrence to the police. He was sent to an Asylum. There were three cases of rape against five in 1883; and in two of these the medical evidence being unsatisfactory, the charges were thrown out by the lower courts, whilst in the remaining case a Mahomedan was sentenced to five years imprisonment for attempting to violate a little girl aged 9 years.

Between the years 1883-1884 uniformity has been maintained in cases of grievous hurt as well as in cases of murder—44 per each year. But we are told that "there is no reason to believe that cases of this nature have increased during the past two years. Investigation seems to show, that so long as the offence of hurt was cognizable, the more technical cases of grievous hurt, such as fracturing a tooth, were classified as cases of hurt. But when *hurt* became no longer a cognizable offence, such cases were entered under their proper heading." Convictions were obtained in 25 cases. 28 persons were convicted by the lower courts, and one by the High Court. There were 51 cases of hurt by dangerous weapons against 66 in 1883—a satisfactory decrease. 56 persons were arrested; of whom 21 were convicted by the Magistrate and 1 by the High Court; 30 persons were discharged, and four awaited trial at the close of the year. In offences of this nature the writer of the Report contends, "results seldom depend on the action taken by the police, settlements being frequently come to between the parties, before the complainant is able to appear in Court." In the past year 13 cases were so disposed of. Under the heading *Kidnapping* we rejoice to find that 18 cases in 1882 and 15 in 1883 have dwindled down to 9 in the year under review. Four out of nine of these cases fell under section 369 of the Penal Code; having in view thefts of ornaments from children. One Sheikh Wozeer, who decoyed 3 children from Hastings towards the Eden Gardens by promising them sweetmeats, was arrested by a native constable duly observant of his proceedings, and was tried and sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment; and Sheikh Sabdool, an old offender who enticed to a secluded garden the young son of a respectable Mahomedan, and robbed him of his ornaments, was traced by his description and punished with a four years term of jail. There was no dacoity case. And, although 76 persons were arrested on a charge of using criminal force to public servants none of these usages of theirs were of a serious nature. There was but one case of robbery with hurt; but one of high way robbery; and the thieves who invited a prostitute to a Hindoo shrine, and there assaulted her, and robbed her of her earrings, &c., were traced by the police to Barranagore, where they were arrested, and the whole of the property recovered. It will be admitted, we think, not only that the Police have behaved creditably in their conduct of criminal cases, but also that the methods pursued by them have evidently had a deterrent effect on the criminal classes—a wholesome terrorism which should be matter for congratulation amongst honest citizens.

We are not so well pleased with the statements and figures dealing with burglary, lurking house-trespass, and theft. The two descriptions of crime first mentioned appear to be steadily on the increase, and although credit is claimed for the better detection of offenders, and a greater measure of success in the recovery of stolen property, yet we cannot help thinking that there is still a good deal of room for improvement in these respects, and that the tax-paying public has a right to expect it. There were 1790 true cases of theft in 1884; 1712 in 1883; 1635 in 1880. Of these 1635, five years ago, 873 were set down as "detected."Of the 1790 of last year only 845 can be so set down. In connection with these figures a statement that only 898 persons were convicted of theft in 1884 compares unfavourably with a total of 978 in 1880. It is true that 82,429 rupees worth of stolen property was recovered in 1884 and only 66, 854 rupees worth in 1880. Still it seems to us that these figures taken in the lump and weighed fairly in the balance do not warrant quite as much crowing over results as the Report indulges in. Thefts were, as usual, heaviest in the second division, which comprises the houses of all the leading merchants, both native and European. Of the total number of all thefts of property 1120 were thefts in buildings, 325 were thefts by servants, and 333 were thefts from the person. We commend to the consideration of our readers the following paragraph from the Report. "Considering the want of care shown by many gentlemen in their selection of servants it is matter for surprise that thefts are not more frequent. Nothing is more common than to find, that the servant who has disappeared after robbing his master, was engaged without any enquiry whatever into his character, residence, or mode of life." Some of our readers may remember a case of robbery last year by servants of, gold ornaments, clothing and sundries belonging to a native gentleman residing within the jurisdiction of the Park Street Thanna. Thefts by carriers engaged to convey grain and goods are said to be carried on—"systematically." Surely a bitterly sarcastic reflection on our police "system!" It was hoped, we are told, that the new system of cart registration, under which figures are burnt into the body of the cart in substitution for wheel plates, might act as some check; but several cases were brought to light in which cartmen had branded their carts with fictitious numbers, or had stolen from other carts the piece of wood bearing the registration number. In one of the many thefts so committed, the cart number which was used by the thief was found by the police under the Zeerut bridge, about three miles from the scene of theft. Tulsi Das Nundy who succeeded in robbing the District Charitable Society of about 40,000 rupees and the Boiler Commission funds of nearly 80,000 rupees was still at large when the report was written. *Per contra* it should be set to the credit of the police, or rather to the credit of Superintendent Baboo Sreenath Pal, that six months after the occurrence of a theft (attended by violence) at Chitpore he ferreted out the thieves, and recovered the stolen property. For his special services on this occasion the energetic superintendent was awarded a gold watch by the Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces.

So far back as 1881, it seems, it became known to the authorities in the public Debt Office that in 1876 a series of daring frauds had been committed by the fraudulent personation of holders of promissory notes, on which no interest had been drawn for several years, and the rightful owners of which were in consequence believed to be dead. Bonds of indemnity had been presented by the personators of the real owners of the notes, and large sums were paid over by the Debt Office, apparently without much enquiry. In one instance four promisory notes, the value of which had been paid on fraudulent indemnity bonds,were presented at the Bank of Bengal within three days of such payment, but the case was not reported to the police. After some years the police were directed to take the matter up, and two of the offenders, who took part in this fraud in 1876, were placed on trial during the past year. Lakhimani, an old woman, who personated the holder of the notes, was pronounced by the medical authorities to be insane, but Narsing Chandra Gupta, one of the chief agents in the fraud, was sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment. We quite agree with the author of the Report in thinking that without connivance on the part of Government servants frauds of this sort could not occur. It is an old story repeating itself. There were 5 cases of extortion in 1884 against 7 in 1883. One absurd case of cheating occur-

red, an ignorant weak-minded man endeavouring to pass off as Government currency notes pieces of cotton print handkerchiefs of European manufacture, which were being sold in the Bazar, bearing the impression of bank-notes of various denominations. One of these imitations had been cut out of the handkerchief, and pasted on to paper, and 12 other fragments representing currency notes were found in the defendant's box. In the opinion of the Standing Counsel no offence had been committed, and the accused was discharged. On the whole we can congratulate Mr. Lambert on the efficient management of the Department placed under his care.

THEOBALD'S SELECTIONS*

IN the early days of English higher education in Bengal poetry formed the most prominent subject in the curriculum of the late Hindu College. Nor was the success with which it was studied unworthy of the intelligence which Bengali youths are noted to possess. Shakespere was no where more thoroughly appreciated—not even in his own native land—than in the metropolis of British India, and many were the Bengali youths who were quite as familiar with English poetry from the days of Chaucer to those of Lord Byron and Shelley as any Englishman. The style, peculiarity, and character of every poet were studied with care, and the taste and admiration for English literature became pretty general. This was probably the secret to which was due the great excellence and idiomatic accuracy which the eleves of the Hindu College acquired in English composition, and the estimation in which they were held by the native community. The credit of infusing a love for English literature in Bengal was due to the teaching of the late Capt. D. L. Richardson. Himself an accomplished poet and master of the pen, he took great pains in cultivating the taste of the youths who were placed under him, and his pupils acquired great proficiency in English literature. Most of his pupils have now closed their earthly career, but the few who still live are reckoned to be the ablest prose writers amongst us. Several of his pupils also courted the tuneful nine through the English tongue, and their poetical effusions have been always very kindly noticed by Englishmen. To help his pupils, Capt. Richardson compiled a poetical selection which for extent, variety, taste and judgment was second to no work of the kind produced in England. The biographical and explanatory notices inserted in that volume were highly appreciated in every literary circle. Soon after the death of Capt. Richardson there arose a revulsion of feeling against poetry, and the exact sciences took its place in the curriculum of Indian Education. This feeling culminated during the administration of Lord Lawrence, under whose inspiration the University of Calcutta tabooed the reading of English poetry in the lower classes of the Government schools of Bengal. It was at the same time authoritatively laid down that the English Entrance Course should include no poetry. The theory was that foreign poetry, foreign idiom, foreign graces of language and style cannot come home to Bengali youths, and it was therefore a waste of time and labour to teach them. The Vandals who were instrumental in issuing this order, forgot, however, that the legitimate conclusion to which their logic would drive them would be to taboo the English language also. This they were not prepared for, though at heart they wished it. It was of the utmost importance to good government and the welfare of the people that the English language should be taught thoroughly, and, if the language has to be taught,

> "What will a child learn sooner than a song;
> "What sooner teach a foreigner the tongue;
> "What's long or short; each accent where to place,
> "And speak in public with some sort of grace?"

It is worthy of note that the greatest opposition to this edict came from the natives, one and all of whom in the Senate voted against it, but they were in the minority and put out by their English colleagues who were banded together to expel the poets of their native land from the University of Calcutta. The ban continues still, and only a feeble attempt was made the other day by a native who carried a resolution to the effect that snatches of nursery rhyme should not come under the prohibition, and that such snatches to the number of one hundred should be learned by rote and belched out to such extent as may be required at the Entrance examination. Insignificant, nay miserable, as this instalment of change is, we notice it because we look upon it as the thin end of the wedge which will some day restore English poetry to its legitimate place in the curriculum of our schools. It marks a reawakening, and we hope our people will follow it up by placing in the hands of the rising generation suitable books to prepare the way for a better state of things, and for an intelligent and earnest appreciation of the working of the master minds of England. The tone of manliness, vigor, and solidity, divested of meritricious verbal ornaments and hackneyed sentimentalism such as disfigure the poetical literature of modern India, which characterises the higher class of English poetry, cannot fail to be of value in the formation of our national character. And to naturalise it amongst us, it is necessary to take it up in early life when the taste of our youths is not yet formed and the ground is ready for the sowing of the healthy seed. The theory of reserving poetry for the College course is absurd. If English poetry is to go home to the heart and feeling of our boys, it should be taught at a much earlier period, even if it be only as a means for teaching the English language correctly. It should find a place even in the second "Primer," and in all subsequent 'Readers.' By the time a boy is in the third class of a school of the zillah standard he would be ready for a separate poetical text-book. In the olden times Gay's Fables were greatly liked in the second class. Though not expressly intended for Indian youths, the new book whose name heads this article is, we think, also on the whole, well adapted for that class, as also for the first class. It was undertaken "as a sort of poetical common-place book for the use of" the compiler's children; without any intention of separate publication, but a circumstance arose which necessitated the help of types. The compiler naively explains the circumstance thus: "'Papa,' said my girls to me when I presented the result of my labour to them, 'do you really suppose we can read this writing of yours?' and the unlucky scribe, to whom the question was addressed, was forced to admit that there was some ground for this filial remonstrance; and hence, with some little alteration and curtailment, the present volume originated." Thus it will be seen the compilation was made for English juvenile readers whose requirements and course of early education are different from those of our boys, and the subjects of some of the pieces selected do not readily come home to them. There are also some notable omissions. "Wordsworth, for example, is not represented simply because the compiler does not care for his poetry, or for any of the 'Lake School,' without however wishing to impugn the taste or wisdom of those who do." These are, however, not serious drawbacks. A small selection of 200 pages is not intended to comprehend every thing, and the teaching of English poetry implies teaching of what is not, but should be, known—of that which is good and true,—of things calculated to improve the mind and refine the understanding. Taking the matter in this light, we can safety recommend Mr. Theobald's book as a good one for use in the first and second classes of our schools. The selection has been made with great care and taste, and the notes and biographical notices annexed will prove useful. The work is not what we were prepared to expect from a distinguished scientist of Mr. Theobald's standing, but it is not the less welcome on that account. It is a decided advantage to have our great men come to the help of our youths, and save them from the inanities of pedagogic mediocrity.

* Selections from the Poets; or, Passages illustrating peculiarities of their style, pathos or wit. By W. Theobald, M. R. A. S.

THE REASON WHY?

IT IS a matter of surprise to many unsophisticated Englishmen why it is that people of Calcutta are so violently opposed to the Government project of amalgamating the suburbs with the metropolis. The Town will receive a large accession of area and a great number of substantial rate-payers, and both, in the ordinary nature of things, should be welcome. The over-crowding of the Town is a matter of serious complaint now, and the gain of new rate-payers to a Corporation which has been for some time past racking its brain to find out new sources of income should not be otherwise than tempting. There is no traditional interest attached to the Corporation, for it is a thing of but yesterday. No official robes and gold chains, no lord Mayor's day and public procession, no social advantages for mem sahibs and missee babas, no frequent dinners and mixing on equal terms with the salts of the earth—with cabinet ministers, great statesmen and foreign ambassdors,—no turtle nor dry monopole free of cost, to hold forth their seductive charms to weak humanity. Hard, exacting, and unceasing is the task which the Corporators have to go through day after day, and the only returns to be expected are unlimited snubbing, from Government, and abuse from the people. The people know this well enough, and cannot, therefore, be influenced by any secondary consideration in its favor. The sense of duty to the community is the only incentive to public honorary office, and that does not at the first blush appear to be hostile to the project. And yet the people will listen to no argument, and denounce the reasons assigned by Government as the merest sophistry. What can be the cause of this recusancy? Is it the result of incapacity to grasp the true nature of the project, or is it mere perverse obstinacy? The former cannot be, for however much a section of the Anglo-Indian press may urge to the contrary, the intelligent classes of the natives are quite as able to see through the object and end of the project as any other civilized community on the face of the earth; and it would be absurd to predicate obstinacy where no private or party interest is concerned. Turtle or congo eel, whichever it be, might influence a London alderman, and vested interests might be too many or too powerful for even a Sir Vernon Harcourt to surmount. But such things are non-existent in Calcutta, and the tendency of the people to fall in with the views of Government is too strong to permit any suggestion about captious opposition. And yet there must be a sufficient and potent cause for the furious ebullition of native feeling which the project has produced. For us, however, that cause is not far to seek. We find it in the extreme unpopularity of Sir Rivers Thompson among the people he is appointed to govern. The part he took in the debates on the Ilbert Bill, brought to light his extreme partizan spirit, and the mutilated emasculated form in which he passed the Local Self-Government Bill entirely destroyed in the people all sense of confidence in him. If any thing would have immortalised the administration of Lord Ripon, it was the Local Self-Government project; it roused the feeling of the whole nation in its favor, and, sooth to say, it was one which bore the impress of the highest statesmanship and liberality of feeling; but passing through the crucible of the Bengal office, the gold totally disappeared, and a few slags of base-metal are all that have been given to the people of Bengal. Coming then to the part which His Honor took in the quarrel about the sanitary condition of Calcutta, the people have the most unmistakable proof of the violent partizan feeling and hostility which he bears towards the natives. What a contrast is thrown upon the conduct of Sir James Fergusson and Sir Rivers Thompson in this respect. When the Bombay Corporation declined to make any contribution towards the maintenance of lock-hospitals, as illegal, and petitioned the Secretary of State against his orders, the worthy Baronet allowed the case to have its course, and said not a word against the Corporation. But when the Calcutta Corporation declined to submit to a grossly illegal Commission, Sir Rivers avenged himself by appointing another which he knew perfectly well would prove in-

uperative, and he appointed it solely because he could not sit quiet under a defeat. He still persists in keeping its *caput mortuum* alive by official galvanic shocks. And these are the reasons why the people will have no confidence in his protestations. These apart, we have the reason why? in the very wording of the resolution which accepts the principle of amalgamation.A more disingenuous and jesuitical document it has seldom been our lot to receive from the Bengal office. It opens with a *non sequitur* which would do credit to Father Loyola himself. We are told that the criticism of the local press has caused "attention to be directed towards the sanitary condition of the area by which the Town is immediately surrounded; and it has been shown on evidence which leaves no room for doubt, that in the close vicinity of Calcutta there are localities whose condition is a standing disgrace to the metropolis of India, and to which very much of the preventible disease of both Town and Suburbs owes its origin." The fact of the existence of insanitary conditions in the Suburbs none will have the hardihood to contradict; they are patent to all; but common sense unaided by official ingenuity fails to perceive how these conditions became "a standing disgrace" to the metropolis of India. What is the metropolis? It must be the Town of Calcutta as represented by the Corporation of Calcutta, or a mere flourish of rhetoric without a meaning; and if it is the Corporation, how can insanitary localities outside its jurisdiction be "a standing disgrace" to it? Those who have the charge of the localities are the parties who should bear the opprobrium, and as the Suburbs were under the immediate control of the Bengal Government, through its own officers, the "standing disgrace" should belong to it, and not to the Corporation. This was obvious enough, but the Government could not face it, and hence the shifting of the blame on the shoulders of those who are not in favour of Sir Rivers. With this fact before them the people cannot but be suspicious of the ends sought to be attained by the amalgamation. Doubtless an admission is made in the passage in which it is said that "the prompt and effectual obliteration of these hotbeds of pestilence —a reform of the most pressing importance to the health of Calcutta (not of the suburbs?)—has hitherto proved a task beyond the powers of the Municipal Commissioners of the Suburbs, partly from financial reasons, partly in consequence of the state of the law, partly perhaps by reason of their own constitution." This, however, does not exculpate the Government in the least. If it was imperative, as doubtless it was, that the "hotbeds of pestilence" should be obliterated in what was under its own control, it was for the Government to provide the means, and it could have easily sanctioned a grant from the provincial funds, or raised the rate of taxation, or altered the law and improved the constitution. But it did nothing of the kind, and now by implication condemns the Calcutta Corporation for allowing the existence of "a standing disgrace." There is no question that the real difficulty is the financial one. The Government will not remove it directly by special grants or further taxation, and so the juggle is to be resorted to of calling the insanitary localities parts of Calcutta and making the people of Calcutta responsible for their improvement. TheCalcuttaites claim to be excused if they fail to perceive the fairness of this course. The Government has fortified itself with diverse opinions in favour of the propriety of making Peter pay for Paul; but we cannot say that they will stand the test of a critical examination by unbiased people. The first opinion quoted is that of the Calcutta Corporators, or rather of their Chairman, whose love for "dialectic disquisitions" led him to prove that Calcutta was greater than Bombay, and this he did by saying the "real capital of Bengal consists of Calcutta with the Suburbs." This is proof the first of the importance of the amalgamation. His Honor next cites the Report of the Suburban Municipality for 1883-84. That report was written by a gentleman who was then being forced by the Commissioners to resign his office, and he paid them off by not only writing a para. against them, in the report, but by publishing a book in which he demonstrated that Local Self-Government was a mischievous delusion. We have next Major Wace's petition of which the least said is the soonest mended. Next comes the recommendation of the majority of the Section 28 Commission which made no enquiry whatever on the subject, and went out of their way to put forth a recommendation without defining what they really wanted and why they wanted it. The Octroi Commission, in a similar manner, made a recommendation without giving, as we pointed out last week, any reason.And lastly we have a resolution of the Calcutta Coporation to the effect that "it is desirable that certain portions of the Suburbs"(*i. e.* those portions which will pay without entailing any extra charge—such as the portion on the off side of the Circular Road) "should be amalgamated with the Town." For administrative purposes these are opinions of no weight whatever; they might suggest enquiry,but no reasonable ruler would for a moment accept them as conclusive. Sir Rivers Thompson,however, has thought otherwise, and at once accepted that principle of amalgamation without even knowing whether it should be partial or entire. We always thought amalgamation implied the merging of one entire thing into another, of gold or lead into mercury, but never heard of cutting off of a slice of one tract of land and tacking it to an adjoining one being an amalgamation. During the last seventy years or more Government has been constantly transferring villages from one district to another, but it never called such transfers or readjustments of boundaries amalgamations; but the word is a good high sounding one, quite as good as the "blessed word Mesopotamia," and we won't quarrel about it. But the public look askance at such juggling. And when to it is added a distinct announcement and threat that the constitution of the municipalities is to be changed unless certain things are done which the Corporation is not bound by law to do, the people naturally think that a plan got up by His Honor, who has already addled the Local Self-Government scheme of Lord Ripon and evinced such unreasoning hostility against the Commissioners, cannot but end by totally emasculating them That is the Reason why?

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant Governor and *suite* arrived in town on Thursday last. His Honor's stay in Calcutta, as we have already stated, will be for about three weeks. His Honor intends, we understand, to visit some of the districts before returning to Darjiling.

THE ENGLISHMAN hears on good authority that Lord Wolseley is to be our next Commander-in-Chief.

WE LEARN from the same source that Colonel Baker, Inspector General of Police in Bengal, who has just earned his Major Generalship, will enter the Egyptian service with the title of Pasha. We hope this will lead to the transfer of his fiery young namesake from the Bengal Police to the land of the crocodiles. His Small Cause Court debt was a source of trouble to him the other day.

WE HAVE been requested by the Honorary Secretary of the Philosophical Society of Great Britain to publish a report of an address read by Professor G. S. Stokes before the Victoria Institute on the harmony between the Book of Nature and the Book of Revelation. It is too long, however, for our space, and we are obliged to decline. The subject, too, is not suited to the columns of a newspaper.

SIR LEPEL GRIFFIN has written to the *Times*, contradicting the statements of "a well-informed correspondent" of that journal that the recent offers of aid of the Native Princes and Chiefs were inspired by powerful Government officials. With regard to the malicious remarks about the aid offered by Maharaja Holkar, Sir Lepel Griffin says that, "the statements of the *Times*' correspondent were 'one and all false.' I had no conversation with the Maharajah on the subject of his loyal offer to Government of the troops and the resources of his state; indeed those offers reached me by telegram when I was visiting the Raja of Rutlam, at a distance from Indore". Sir Lepel has well earned the thanks of the native community by thus vindicating the honor of the Native Princes and chiefs.

OUR announcement last week that it was proposed to reduce the total number of Municipal Commissioners from 72 to 24, has, it appears, been misunderstood. We, therefore, print here some rough extracts of the proceedings of the second Meeting of the Amalgamation Committee in regard to this subject:—"After some further conversation, the President asked each member of the Committee to state briefly his views of what the constitution of the municipalities should be. Babu Kalinath Mitra thought the question depended entirely on the area to be included. If the area were large it might be necessary to constitute several sub-bodies with a central controlling authority, but he considered it premature to discuss the question till the boundary was settled. Dr. Gurudas Banerjee also thought the boundaries should be settled first. If the additional area was small, not more than 6 or 7 square miles, he would leave the constitution much as it is at present. But if the new area was large he would have no complete amalgamation, but would leave the two municipalities distinct, but with a joint controlling body to settle such questions as those of water-supply, drainage and the like. Mr Paul would decentralise as much as possible. He wished to see 3 distinct and independent Municipalities: North Suburbs, Calcutta, and the South Suburbs. These might, if necessary, have a central controlling authority to deal with matters of common interest; but he would keep the three as much as possible separate. Cossipore and Chitpore united (perhaps) with part of Barranagore would make a strong Municipality in the north. So would Garden Reach, Alipore and Ballygunge in the south. He would not amalgamate any part of these with Calcutta and he would extend Calcutta only on the eastern side.

Messrs. Harrison and Reynolds thought a considerable part of the Suburbs should be included, in fact all the populous parts; that there should be a central controlling body, but that a large share of power and responsibility should be given to sub-local bodies of which there would be 6, 7, or 8, according to the area and population which might be included. Mr. Reynolds suggested a central body of 25 members, but Mr. Harrison thought the number should not be less than that of the present Municipality of Calcutta and that there would be no harm in its being larger.

PROFESSOR F. Max Muller has written to the *Indian Spectator*, of Bombay, complaining of a para. in our issue of the 4th May last. The para. announced that a distinguished orientalist of England had written to Babu Protapachandra Roy, stating that "in the recently published German translation of 'India, what can it teach us?' the passages in praise of Hindu truthfulness have, *with the author's sanction*, been suppressed." The learned Professor admits the sanction. His words are; "when he" (Dr. Cappeller, the translator) "told me that some passages in my lectures, which were primarily intended for candidates for the Civil Service in India, would prove of less interest to German readers, I gave him permission to leave out whatever he thought might be safely left out." He adds, however, "Imagine my surprise when I saw that the German translator has not left out the lecture on the *Truthful Character of the Hindus*, but that it is there from page 30 to page 58." We have not the book before us, but we readily accept the statement of Professor Max Muller that no excision has been made, and express our regret that the para. in question appeared and gave offence to the gentleman. It was by the merest inadvertence that it escaped our notice. We would have at once published the name of the Distinguished Orientalist whose authority we cited. He is a German gentleman of high respectability, as well-known and respected in London as the learned Professor himself, and whose statement we could not for a moment doubt; but as we retract our remarks about the learned

Professor without any qualification,it would serve no useful purpose if we did so. Under that consideration we also refrain from taking any note of the tone of the Professor's letter.

SAYS the Marhatta :

"Our contemporary of the *Patriot* is anything but accurate in saying that the number of commercial and agricultural deposits in Postal Banks is small because neither class of people can afford to lose much valuable time during business hours in coming to the Bank; nor can it appreciate the advantages of this system of depositing money. *Patriot* appears to believe that the Village Sowcar still continues to command confidence. This is not the fact. The fact is that these communities hardly have anything left with them, and they thus require neither Mahajan nor Bank. Their Mahajans are their rulers,and their Banks the United Kingdom.

Confining our observations within the boundary of our province, we can unhesitatingly affirm that, notwithstanding the transfer of the assets of the agricultural classes from the Mahajun to the coffers of the State, there is yet a large balance in hand which might have gone to the Postal Banks, if they had been more easily accessible, and the commercial classes are far from being so squeezed out as our friend would suggest. They find it much easier to work their capital in other ways than in deposits in Postal Banks. We may venture to affirm that this applies also to most parts of the Western Presidency.

WE SYMPATHISE with our Bombay friends for the disappointment they have met with by the collapse of their project to have an international exhibition next year. An impression is gaining ground that such exhibitions have of late degenerated into holiday-making; and truth to say Fisheries and Healtheries and the like are to a great extent made subservient to public entertainment ; but we see no objection in it. Public entertainment is a public requirement, and that which supplies it is *ipso facto* beneficial to the public, and on that ground alone we would have strongly advocated the proposed exhibition. Not that we thereby imply any doubt about the benefit to art, trade and commerce,—to taste, culture and general advancement—which International Exhibitions confer, but they have been too often discussed in the press for the public and too self-evident to need re-capitulation. The cause of the Bombay collapse is the refusal of Government to give the necessary guarantee under present financial pressure, and the reluctance of the Banks to advance money without that security. These causes, however, will, we expect, soon disappear, and our friends will be sure at no distant date to have their grand Tamasha.

THE BURDWAN Homicide case, in which Oswald Enge, a German engineer, was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment by the Sessions Judge of Burdwan,came on appeal before the Honorable Justices Prinsep and Grant, at the High Court, on Thursday last. Mr. Justice Prinsep, who delivered the judgment, said that the verdict convicting the accused rested almost entirely on admissions made by the accused. The evidence showed that the prisoner was a well-behaved man, and not one of violent habits, or of a violent disposition, and living on good terms with all his neighbours. Having regard to these facts as well as to the fact that the accused was a stranger in this country, and, therefore, would be likely to suffer from confinement in jail more than one born and bred in this country, their Lordships thought, for the ends of justice, the prisoner would be sufficiently punished by being rigorously imprisoned for one year. We are unable to appreciate the grounds on which the sentence has been reduced. The term of five years was short enough for the offence committed, and then to reduce it to one year on the grounds assigned is a legal subtlety which is beyond our comprehension. Call it homicide or murder, Jogendranath Mitter's death was caused by the prisoner. But on one ground or another the offence assumed the most attenuated form, and the offender is now let off with the same punishment which would be inflicted for knocking out a tooth. We are bound to say in the name of the native community that the ends of justice have *not* been satisfied by the light punishment awarded.

THE SEVERE shock of earthquake which was felt in Calcutta on the morning of the 14th instant was, fortunately, not attended here with any serious damage to property. The shock was similar in character to the one which occurred on the Jagadhatri Puja night, about forty years ago. The shock on last Tuesday lasted for over a minute. The severity of the shock was greater at Dacca, Serajgunge, and Mymensingh, than in Calcutta. Reports are pouring in from all parts of the province to show that the results have been disastrous in many places. We have before us a mass of letters, particularly from Sherpore, giving details of the injury done, the houses broken down, the people killed, and the distress produced everywhere ; but we cannot afford space to reproduce them, and must leave them for the broad sheets of our daily contemporaries. For scientific purposes the details published are singularly unfortunate. It is impossible, for instance, to draw any inference about the velocity of the shock from the times mentioned by the different correspondents. Even in Calcutta no exact time was recorded, the opinion varying from 6-17 to 6-26, and ordinary clocks and watches are so unreliable. The directions mentioned are equally discordant, and this is due partly to the difficulty of making out, all of a sudden, when the mind is quite disturbed and out of balance, from which side the shock commenced, and partly to local influence. The rumbling noise so generally attendant on severe shocks is very apt to be overlooked. In Calcutta many people heard it, while others did not. Such was the case in other places. Similarly the sense of sickness was noticed by some, but overlooked by others. The character of the shocks has also puzzled the observers. The majority think it was vibratory ; but a good many describe it as undulatory, and people are not wanting who recognize an upheaval action and this is borne out by the cracks and squirting of sand and water that happened in many places.The general opinion is that there were three distinct shocks, but there are not men wanting who say that they counted four or five shocks. The fact is, as each great shock is followed by a number of tremors, it is not always easy to differentiate between shocks or thumps and tremors Judging from the relative severity of the shocks. in the North-eastern districts, the inference should be that the centre of the commotion was situated somewhere about Assam. The cause of the phenomenon is uncertain. All theorists are agreed as to the connection between volcanoes and earth-quakes, and that they are produced by the same subterranean agency. The existence of a superheated mass in the bowels of the earth is the starting point in all, except in the chemical theory propounded by Davy. According to Mr. Mallet earth-quakes are the consequence of a shock or impulse of some sort inflicted on the solid portion of the earth, at some point below its surface. This shock is propagated by two kinds of vibration or waves. The first wave is called in scientific language, the elastic wave of compression, that moves onward on all sides in circles, proceeding from the point of shock as a centre, and carrying to a distance a sense of the trembling, or of the original shock. Such waves of trembling or undulation go in all directions, vertically as well as horizontally. The state of the neighbourhood when a heavy railway train passes through a tunnel illustrates both. Then there is what is called a sea-wave and an atmospheric wave. This is more descriptive than explanatory of causation. The latest theory is that proposed by the Brothers Rogers, who consider the producing cause, "as an actual pulsation in the fluid matter beneath the crust propagated in the manner of great waves of translation, from enormous ruptures caused by tension of elastic matter, and floating forward on its surface, the superimposed rocky crust of the earth." Mr. Medlicott, Superintendent of the Geological Survey, thus explains the most recent theory : "The earth's crust is perpetually in a state of strain, the accumulated effects of relative change of volume between the interior and exterior owing to secular refrigeration. This strain naturally takes effect on long zones of weakness. It is for the most part satisfied by 'creep,' the slow yielding of imperfectly rigid masses, involving imperceptible elevation and depression of the surface, but occasionally of course there is sudden crushing fracture and fissuring, producing the bumps we call earthquakes." These explanations are, we are afraid, too scientific for many of our readers, but we have nothing better to offer.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications :—

1. Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for 1884.
2. Report on the working of Govt. Charitable Dispensaries in the Central Provinces for 1884.
3. Report on the Dispensaries and Charitable Institutions of the N. W. Provinces and Oudh for 1884.
4. Proceedings of the Hon'ble the Lt. Governor of the Punjab in the Municipal Department for 1885.
5. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, July 1885.
6. The Friend of China, June, 1885.
7. Messrs Thacker & Co's Catalogue of surveying and mathematical instruments, &c. 1885.
8. The Real Defence of India by G. Pellew Paul.
9. Visitors' Remarks on Her Highness'es' Girls' School at Mysore.
10. Jiva Tatva Part IV, by Baboo Gyanendra Kumar Rai Chaudhuri.
11. Minutes of the Proceedings of the sixth ordinary General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the Suburbs of Calcutta.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN GENERAL DEBILITY AND EMACIATION.—In cases of Debility and Emaciation the powerful curative influence of Dr. de Jongh's Light .Brown Cod Liver Oil is graphically described by Sir Henry Marsh Bart M. D., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland who, after extensive use, strongly recommended this preparation, and observed: —" I have frequently prescribed Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil. I consider it to be a very pure Oil, not likely to create disgust, and a therapeutic agent of great value." This eminent Physician remarks:— "With strumous and emaciated subjects, and where the general health is impaired, this remedy tells with peculiar efficacy. The reviving and remaining effects of a regular daily course of this animal Oil are highly satisfactory. Its favourable action on the system is renovating; it checks progressive emaciation, restores the yielding health, rebuilds, as it were, the tottering frame, and brings about a most remarkable and salutary change in all the vital functions." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled Imperial half-pints, pints and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn London

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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,, Hurro Chunder Chowdry, Jarrah	7	8	0
			0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette— 15th *July*, 1885.

Notification—3rd July—The Lieut-Govr will return to the Presy on Thursday, 16th inst. All communications to the various depts of the Secretariat should be addressed to Calcutta till further notice.

7th July—Mr A P MacDonnell, Secy to this Govt in the Genl and Rev Depts, is allowed leave for three months under section 72 chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, from 13th inst.

Babu Kaliprosunno Sircar, Dy Magte and Dy Colr, on leave is apptd to have charge of the Magurah sub-divn of the Jessore dist, during the absence, on leave of Babu Peary Mohun Banerjee.

Mr T D Moran, Dy Magte and Dy Colr, is allowed leave for six months, in extension of leave granted him under order of 20 h Feby 1884.

8th July—Mr R T Horsford is apptd a Lieut of the Dacca Volr Rifles, Mounted Co. vice Mr R S Glover, resigned.

Moulvie Syed Mahomed, Tempy Dy Magte and Dy Colr, Maldah, is vested with the powers of a Colr under Act X of 1876 in that dist.

Babu Gourchandra Sen is appointed to act as Tehsildar of Ungul Cuttack, during the absence, on leave of Babu NarayanChunder Naik, or until further orders.

Babu Gourchandra Sen is vested temply with the powers of a Dy. Colr.

10th July—Babu Bejoy Krishna Bose, Dy Magte and Dy Colr, Rajshahye, was in charge of the Nattore sub-divn of that dist from 12th to 20th June.

Mr A W R Cadell, Asst Magte and Colr, Barh, Patna, is vested with the powers of a Colr in that dist.

Babu Rajendrachunder Ghose, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Colr Nowgong, Rajshahye, is vested with the powers of a Colr in that dist.

11th July—Mr C M W Brett, Jt-Magte and Dy Colr 24-Perghs, is apptd to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Chittagong during the absence, on leave, of Mr R H Greaves.

This cancels the order of the 22nd June last, apptg Mr F F Handley to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Chittagong.

13th July—Mr H H. Birch, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Colr, Monghyr, is trnsfd temply to Darjeeling, and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

Police—6th July—The order of 1st June published in the Calcutta Gazette of third idem, granting privilege leave for fifteen days to Mr J Cowie, Offg Asst Supdt of Police, Manbhoom, is cancelled.

13th July—Mr. A B Barnard, Asst Supdt of Police in charge of the Guzrat Mehals Police, Cuttack, is apptd to have charge of the dist police, Balasore, during the absence on leave, of Mr G W S Cox, with effect from date on which he joined his apptmt.

This cancels the order of 8th June apptg Baboo Gopal Hari Mullick to have charge of the Dist Police of Balasore.

Registration—6th July—Baboo Peary Mohun Sircar, Rural Sub-Regtr of Jagatbullubpore, in the dist of Howrah, is apptd to be Rural Sub-Regtr of Amta in the same dist.

Baboo Dwarka Nath Ghosal, Offg Rural Sub-Regtr of Amta, is apptd to be Offg Rural Sub-Regtr of Jagatbullubpore.

12th July—Mr F F Handely, First Insptr of Registration Offices, is allowed leave for two months and thirteen days, from date he availed himself of it.

14th July—The orders of 24th Jany granting Pandit Dabee Prasad, Special Sub-Regtr of Chupra privilege leave for seven weeks, and apptg Baboo Rajendra Nath Roy, Depy Magte and Dy Colr, Saran, to act as Special Sub-Regtr of Chupra, in addn to his own duties, are cancelled.

Education—9th July—Mr S C Hill, Professor in the Dacca College, is apptd act as Insptr of Schools of the Eastern Circle during the absence, on leave, of Dr C A Martin.

11th July—The following gentlemen are apptd to be adnl members of the Dist School Comtee of Darjeeling :—

The Senior Depy Magte Ex-officio, Baboo Chunder Kunta Pyne, Pleader, Baboo Chhatra Dhur Ghose, Baboo Gopal Lall Banerjee, Dist Engr. Mr D Southerland, Bar-at-Law.

Baboo Mohendronath Banerjee, B L, Govt Pleader, Darjeeling, is apptd to be Secy to the above Committee, ice Mr F B Taylor.

13th July—The Revd Lall Behari Day, Professor, Hooghly College, is apptd temply to class III of the Bengal Educl Service, from 5th May, 1884, vice Dr G Watt, on deputation.

Mr G A Stack, Temy Professor, Presy College, acted in class III of the Bengal Educl Service, from 5th May to 5th Octr, 1884, inclusive vice Mr A Pedler, who acted in class II for that period.

Mr A Pedler, Professor, Presy College, and Offg Metrgcl Reporter to Govt, acted in class II of the Bengal Educl Service from 8th Nvr, 1884, to 7th Feby, 1885 vice Dr C A Martin on privilege leave.

Mr O Bellet, Insptr of Schools, Rajshaye Circle, is apptd to act in class I of the Bengal Educl Service, from 8th March, 1885, vice Mr C H Tawney apptd to act as Dirtr of Public Instruction.

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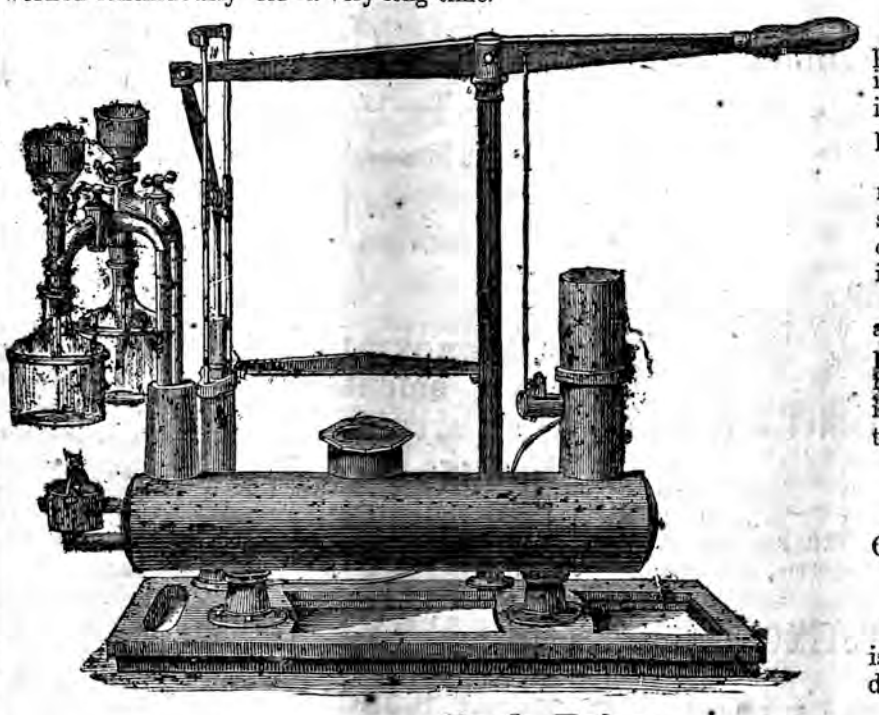

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25	64	12	0	48	8	0	41	0	0	25
30	68	8	0	51	10	0	44	0	0	30
35	73	8	0	56	0	0	47	12	0	35
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20	32	2	0	34	14	0	38	14	0	20
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